



BEAUMONT UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Before the Federal Communications Commission Washington, D.C. 20554

In the Matter of)
Modernizing the E-rate) WC Docket No. 13-184
Program for Schools and Libraries)

COMMENTS BY BEAUMONT UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT RELATED TO THE E-RATE 2.0 NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING

Beaumont Unified School District is located in the County of Riverside and services just under 9000 students daily. Our mission statement is to provide high quality educational opportunities for all students in a safe and secure learning environment through a shared commitment among home, school, and community. The technological aspect of our educational environment has been in a state of constant change to assure that all students received access to the most relevant educational resources available to them and provide an engaging learning experience.

I write to provide Comments to the FCC on the E-Rate NPRM, proceeding 13-184. The E-Rate has been of great importance to my district because it has helped our students and teachers gain access to a wealth of online resources, to communicate and collaborate, and to develop the 21st century skills necessary for college and career. However, E-Rate funding levels have not kept pace with my district's current & future bandwidth needs. I urge you to consider raising the E-rate funding level to at least \$5 billion per year, which is close to the average demand level for each of the past two years.

As a district in California, I know that seamlessly infusing digital learning throughout the school curriculum is a pre-requisite for students to graduate from high school with the skills and knowledge they need to succeed in today's global economy. Access to high speed broadband is the key for modern teaching and learning to occur in all schools across the country.

In Beaumont Unified School District, we use digital learning to personalize learning, meet Common Core State Standards, and make data-driven decisions. Each and every resource requires the support of a reliable and robust network infrastructure with the use of very high data bandwidth. However, my district network is just barely keeping up with the current demand and the need for upgraded infrastructure and increased bandwidth will continue to grow.

My district has a free and reduced lunch count that usually never goes above 80%. This prevents us from ever qualifying for Priority 2 requests with the exception of one year in the past ten years. To address this limitation, we have utilized whatever funds realized from the discounts given to us from our Priority 1 services to address infrastructure needs district-wide. This has

allowed the district to make several needed upgrades to support newer technology and bandwidth needs even without Priority 2 support. Our current initiative that has been supported by these practices has been the installation of a high density wireless infrastructure, District-wide. This will provide the district with a infrastructure capable of support thousands of wireless devices to assure reliable connectivity for the upcoming Smarter Balanced Assessments requirements planned for California. I ask that Priority 1 services remain the same so that Beaumont Unified School District can be capable of providing these needed upgrades without any additional burden.

The E-rate program has been a phenomenal success in bringing Internet access to almost every classroom in America. In the last funding cycle applications from schools and libraries totaled more than \$5 billion, more than double the available funding. I respectfully urge the FCC to increase funding for the E-Rate program to at least \$5 billion to meet this demand. All students need access to high speed broadband. Our nation's future depends on their success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J. Lewis', is written over the typed name and title.

Director, Information & Technology
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